

## Today's News - Wednesday, January 30, 2013

- Not a lot of happy campers today: Kimmelman has issues with Foster's plan for the New York Public Library: "this hardly seems the best he can do. The designs have all the elegance and distinction of a suburban mall" (are library officials suffering "a form of architectural Stockholm syndrome"?).
- Farrelly is left flat by the Shard: looking at London, "I think, you have all this, and you do that?" (illustration and opening are a hoot!)
- Becker takes an in-depth look at the history and future of Chicago's Wolf Point: "On this once-in-a-lifetime blank canvass, redefining Chicago's civic character for a new century, is this really the best we can do?"
- Calatrava defends his huge fees and gigantic budget for Valencia's City of Arts and Sciences.
- Vadukut has a most interesting take on India's "obsession with 'getting things done'" and why it should matter to urban planners: there's a "problem with the jugaad approach."
- Glasgow's City Council leader apparently had "a fit of pique" when jury didn't pick his favorite design for George Square.
- McAslan revamps plans for George Square "in a bid to win over the city."
- To happier news: Bernstein cheers Kennedy Center picking Holl's plan "to bring the art of architecture back to life."
- Campbell gives two thumbs-up's (and then some) to Ennead's Yale University Art Gallery that proves an "architectural truth - form doesn't necessarily follow function."
- Litt lights up at the transformation of Cleveland's Transformer Station, the "latest example of art as an economic development tool."
- Wise waxes poetic about Casa Malaparte on Capri, "a strangely exhibitionistic stage for the solitary life of a writer" (a "besotted Indian art collector plans to build a replica on the Ganges").
- Cheng elaborates on the University of Minnesota College of Design's new MS-RP program to shorten the path to licensure.
- Betsky begs to differ: "While I applaud the basic idea of the University of Minnesota's new program, I have a fundamental problem with its implications."
- Looming deadline reminders: ASLA 2013 Professional Awards + FIGMENT 2013 Minigolf Course on Governors Island in NYC.

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In *Renderings for a Library Landmark*, *Stacks of Questions*, *Still*: New York Public Library will have to work structural magic to build Norman Foster's branch library beneath the reading room on 42nd Street...schematics...aren't worthy of him. After more than four years, this hardly seems the best he can do. The designs have all the elegance and distinction of a suburban mall. By Michael Kimmelman -- Carrère and Hastings; Foster + Partners [\[images\]](#) - New York Times

The Shard misses Renzo Piano's fine tuning: I'm not anti-tower...a good tower in the right spot is a beauty to behold. But I look at this town - its friable loveliness...and I think, you have all this, and you do that? It needed a stroke of brilliance, such as Piano has, at times, delivered. Not here, though. By Elizabeth Farrelly - Sydney Morning Herald

Hour of the Wolf: The Transformation the Pivot Point of Chicago: ...deserves something beyond the standard treatment, no matter how well executed...For the iconically strategic site that is Wolf Point, it falls far short...On this once-in-a-lifetime blank canvass, redefining Chicago's civic character for a new century, is this really the best we can do? By Lynn Becker -- Pelli Clarke Pelli; bKL Architecture; Wolff Landscape Architecture [\[images\]](#) - ArchitectureChicago Plus

Santiago Calatrava defends £81 million fees for Valencia work: ...€1.2billion City of Arts and Sciences - described as a 'white elephant that the country could not afford' - and his fees...have caused controversy in Spain...[he] hit back saying: "The project took 20 years to complete...It was supposed to be a motor for regeneration and for sure, it has regenerated the area." - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Why India's Obsession With 'Getting Things Done' Should Matter to Urban Planners: Skirting the rules to get a problem fixed runs deep in India's culture...The problem with the jugaad approach, however, is that in as much as it thrives in an environment bereft of institutions, it also prevents institutions from being formed. By Sidin Vadukut - The Atlantic Cities

How Gordon Matheson scrapped George Square revamp when judges ignored his choice: ...told his fellow judges which design should win...at the outset of the judging process...he scrapped the project in what the sources described as "a fit of pique." -- Burns & Nice; John McAslan & Partners - The Herald (Scotland)

John McAslan & Partners has unveiled new plans for Glasgow's George Square, featuring more greenery in a bid to win over the city. [\[image\]](#) - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Steven Holl Architects Selected for Kennedy Center Expansion: Ada Louise Huxtable...derided the Edward Durell Stone-designed [center] as "a great marble sarcophagus in which the art of architecture lies buried." Now the Center has approved a plan to bring the art of architecture back to life...will be largely underground, with three pavilions rising to the surface in a newly created park. By Fred A. Bernstein [\[images\]](#) - Architectural Record

In design, Yale University Art Gallery leads by example: There are lessons here for any art museum that wants to do a good job. Yale gets at least five things right...The fact that the Gallery fits so well into such a variety of buildings reminds you of another architectural truth, which is that form doesn't necessarily follow function. By Robert Campbell -- Ennead Architects [\[images\]](#) - Boston Globe

Transformer Station is set to transform Cleveland's art scene and spur growth in Ohio City: When it opens Friday...it will build cultural connections across the city and become the latest example of art as an economic development tool...already is jump-starting fresh investments in its surroundings. By Steven Litt -- John Williams/Process Creative Studios [\[images\]](#) - Cleveland Plain Dealer

Part Palace, Part Temple, Part Prison: On the Casa Malaparte: Italian writer Curzio Malaparte called the island abode he built on Capri between 1938 and 1942 "a portrait in stone," "a house like me." But, which me? Indeed, there were many...a strangely exhibitionistic stage for the solitary life of a writer. By Michael Z. Wise - Los Angeles Review of Books

A Better Path to Practicing: Creating a robust knowledge loop and halving the time needed for licensure...professional M.Arch and MS-RP incorporate a new experience that we at University of Minnesota College of Design are calling a "research practice internship." By Renée Cheng - DesignIntelligence

Save the Architecture Learning for Graduate School: The study of architecture should be for graduate programs only. Undergraduate education is for learning literature, history, and the cultural context in which built architecture will stand. While I applaud the basic idea of the University of Minnesota's new one-year research program...I have a fundamental problem with...its implications... By Aaron Betsky - Architect Magazine

Call for entries deadline reminder: ASLA 2013 Professional Awards; deadline: February 22 - American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Call for entries deadline reminder: FIGMENT 2013 Minigolf Course on Governors Island in New York City: "State of the Art";

deadline: March 1- FIGMENT

Nuts + Bolts: Mission Possible: Increase Your Value Without Lowering Your Fees; Fact or fiction: Lowering your fees makes you competitive? You decide. By Steve Whitehorn - ArchNewsNow.com



- MAD: Absolute Towers ["Marilyn Monroe" towers], Mississauga, Canada
- Barreca & La Varra Studio: B5 Building, Milan, Italy
- "ARCHIGRAM - A Guide to Archigram 1961-74" by Pamela Johnston, Catherine Crompton, Philip Mann, Christian Steiner & Toni Stooss

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